

Department of Energy, make it more efficient, get better use of taxpayer dollars. Then to wake up and read the newspaper and find that the Department of Energy chief, Ms. Hazel O'Leary, Cabinet member, has taken \$43,500 of public money to go out and investigate the media, rate newspapers, rate reporters, try to coerce those who give bad stories, in her opinion, to give better stories, that is at least two, maybe three jobs at the Savannah River site.

Along with the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. HOKE] who made this amendment, can you imagine what would happen to a Member of Congress if they did such a thing? They should lose their job, and so should Ms. O'Leary. This is really an offensive event. It was one of many events that show there is no leadership over in the Department of Energy. I think it is a good example of what happens when an agency continues to grow with no clear mission or well-defined purpose. All of a sudden, it is more important what people think of you than what you are actually doing.

I would just like to let everyone know that I find it highly inappropriate for the Department of Energy chief to take \$43,500 of hard-earned public money and try to recreate her image at a time when we are downsizing the Department and we are making hard decisions throughout the land. The problem with the Department of Energy is not an image problem, it is a substance problem. We need to have a well-defined, clearly-defined energy policy. We need to clean these sites up instead of talking about it. We need to get on and develop our national defense needs, like tritium production, which is within the venue of the Department of Energy.

Mr. HOKE. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman continue to yield on that?

Mr. GRAHAM. I am glad to yield to the gentleman from Ohio.

Mr. HOKE. Mr. Speaker, we spend a lot of time talking about travel, and now this silliness where the Secretary has actually spent money, she is so paranoid apparently, about the way the Department itself, as well as she, personally, is being perceived in the press that she is spending taxpayer dollars to have reporters investigated.

But what is really at stake here is the fact that the primary responsibility of the Department of Energy is the warehousing and safeguarding of our nuclear weapons stockpile. Think about it. We are talking about bombs that can wipe out this Earth many, many times over.

When we cannot even have a Secretary and a Department that can control its own travel, its own spending, and is so paranoid that it is checking up on reporters in that way, that bodes terribly, terribly poorly for this core mission, which is critically important. We are not talking about muckraking for political benefit, here. What we are talking about is an extraordinarily important responsibility that rests with

the Secretary of the Department of Energy.

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. GRAHAM. I gladly yield to the gentleman from Kansas.

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, there has been a bill going forward that says that we are trying to reduce the redundancy in government and eliminate the Department of Energy as a Cabinet level agency. I think this shows that this individual will take any means necessary to prevent the needed cuts to take place in her bureaucracy, even to the point of going and investigating some of the other reporters and Members of Congress, as well as reporters. I think that, as 68 others have, I will join and call for the resignation of the Secretary of Energy.

Mr. GRAHAM. If I may, Mr. Speaker, the article to which we are referring has a unique comment in it. A DOE official responded concerning the spending of \$43,500 to go out and investigate media outlets and reporters who report on the Department of Energy, favorable or unfavorable ratings, and made the comment:

A reporter's unfavorable rating meant we weren't getting our message across, that we needed to work on this person a little.

To me, that is a statement beyond belief, that again, if I as a Member of Congress took taxpayer money entrusted to my care to go out and work on somebody to make me look better, I should lose my job.

#### A HISTORIC OPPORTUNITY TO BALANCE THE FEDERAL BUDGET

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. FOX] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, we are in a historic time right now for the House of Representatives and for the Congress generally. We have the opportunity for the first time since 1969 to in fact balance the budget. People say, "What do you mean by balance the budget? Doesn't the country already do that?" No, it is an unfortunate tale, but not since 1969 have we balanced the budget. School boards balance their budgets, county governments do, State governments and family budgets as well as corporations make sure they do not spend more than they bring in, but the Federal Government for many years, when they have more money that they have spent than they brought in, it just becomes a tax increase. Now we are up to almost \$5 trillion in years of Congresses, House and Senate and prior Congresses, basically spending more than they bring in.

I think the message we have heard from all of our districts, all 435 across the country in all 50 States, is that while we want direct services that the Federal Government can provide that are not already provided by the State government or the private sector, let us make sure we eliminate the fraud,

abuse, and waste. That is what this Congress is trying to do.

By balancing the budget, we are going to be able to achieve lower interest payments for those who own a house and are paying a mortgage, we will be able to lower the interest payments for cars, for people who are buying a vehicle over time, we will be able to lower the cost of college education, and, by balancing the budget, we will in fact increase the opportunities for companies to expand, to grow, and to hire. By having more employment and more people contributing to the tax base, we will stabilize the tax base.

We are on the threshold of an historic Congress in that we have passed the balanced budget, we will have passed tax reform, giving young people the opportunity to have an education, to have an elder care tax credit, to have a rollback of the 1993 increase of the Social Security tax, to allow seniors under that same tax reform proposals to be able to in fact earn more than \$11,280 without a deduction in their Social Security. They will be able to earn up to \$30,000 a year.

That will reduce the capital gains tax to 19 percent for individuals, 25 percent for companies, thus increasing job opportunities, savings, and expansion of businesses, and as well, we will have an adoption tax credit of \$5,000 for families who are trying to adopt a child. All of these are pro-business, pro-people ideas to help seniors, to help working class individuals, to help our young people.

We want to make sure that the next generation of children is not born with such a heavy debt, and by having the heavy debt it makes it harder to get a job, it makes it harder to keep a job, it makes it harder to enjoy the quality of life that we want to have that is better than we had. We can make sure that we build upon the American dream by working together in a bipartisan fashion to balance our budget, to make sure that we have businesses that are thriving, and to make sure that services that have to be performed by the Federal Government do not have all the bureaucratic red tape and the unnecessary costs that have occasioned them in previous years.

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So I am looking forward to a final reconciliation bill, a final legislation dealing with the House and Senate, working together and hopefully also having the President's assistance as well, to make sure that we do what the American people want, and that is balance the budget, reduce spending that is wasteful, reduce excessive cost, and provide the services that people need without bankrupting the Nation.

#### JOLTED BY WORLD EVENTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. AL-LARD). Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentlewoman